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Brief Description of the Drawings⁴

Further features and advantages of the invention will become apparent on reading the following detailed description of embodiments of the invention, these being given purely by way of example and with reference to the drawings, in which:

- Figure 1 shows a filter in cross section;
- 5 - Figure 2 shows a bottom view of the filter of Figure 1;
- Figure 3 is a cross section through a holding device according to one embodiment of the invention; and
- Figure 4 shows a cross section through a test means for detecting a substance in a fluid.

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In the description which follows, the term "holding device" denotes the elements for preventing a solid body in a predetermined place from moving along a tube. The solid body prevented from moving by the holding device may be a compact solid body or may be in the form of powder or granules. The term "tube" denotes a means of confining the said solid body, through which a fluid flows for the purpose of detecting a substance in the fluid.

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The invention relates to a holding device placed inside a tube. It comprises a filter and a spring. The filter has a disc, such as a grid for example, and an elastically deformable part which extends transversely with respect to a surface of the disc in one direction. The filter has a diameter at the disc at most equal to the inside diameter of the tube. A spring is placed inside the elastically deformable part so as to press the latter against the walls of the tube and prevent the filter from moving along the tube. It is then possible to fill the tube with a solid body which is retained on each side by a holding device, the latter allowing, however, a fluid to flow through the filter.

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Figure 1 shows, in cross section, a filter 10 having an elastically deformable part 13 of tubular shape. One of the ends 23 of the filter is closed off by a disc 11, the other end 24 being left open. The disc 11 is, for example, a grid. The filter 10 is made, by injection or compression moulding, of a material giving the structure rigidity, preferably a plastic (for example, polystyrene or PVC). The elastically deformable part 13 may thus be elastically deformed when its walls are pinched together or moved apart. The position shown in Figure 1 is the rest position.

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In the example in Figure 1, the elastically deformable part 13 is a tube partially slit in the length direction. The elastically deformable part 13 is approximately perpendicular to the disc 11.